

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method performed at a content recipient comprising:

executing first program code at the content recipient so as to identify a content provider having posted content of interest to the content recipient;

executing second program code at the content recipient so as to automatically initiate a request for the posted content;

executing third program code at the content recipient so as to automatically receive the posted content at the content recipient in response to execution of the second program code; and,

executing fourth program code at the content recipient so as to automatically display a notice to the content recipient that the posted content has been received at the content recipient in response to execution of the second and third program code.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising canceling future requests for the posted content without communicating such an intent to the content provider.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executing of the second program code at the content recipient so as to automatically initiate a request for the posted content comprises executing second program code at the content recipient so as to automatically and recurrently initiate requests for the posted content.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising canceling future requests for the posted content without communicating such an intent to the content provider.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 further comprising canceling future requests for the posted content without communicating such an intent to the content provider.

7. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein executing second program code at the content recipient so as to automatically initiate a request for the posted content comprises executing second program code at the

content recipient so as to automatically and recurrently initiate requests for the posted content.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising canceling future requests for the posted content without communicating such an intent to the content provider.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising executing fifth program code at the content recipient so as to provide notice to the content recipient that no posted content has been received by the content recipient in response to execution of the second program code.

10 - 11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein executing the third program code comprises executing the third program code so that the posted content, when received, is displayed behind a session if the session is active.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the executing of the fourth program code at the content recipient comprises executing the fourth code so as to display the notice even if the session is active.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the notice is an icon.

15. (original) The method of claim 13 further comprising executing fifth program code at the content recipient so that, upon an action related to the notice, the posted content burns through the session so that the posted content is visible to a user.

16. (original) The method of claim 13 further comprising executing fifth program code at the content recipient so that, upon an action related to the notice, the posted content is displayed in front of the session so that the posted content is visible to a user.

17. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising electronically receiving the second program code at the content recipient from the content provider.

18. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium, the computer readable storage medium storing program code which, when executed by a computing device, performs the following functions:

automatically initiating a request for the download of a graphical content element of a web page posted by a content provider; and,

receiving only the graphical element in response to the request without receiving the whole web page.

19. (original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when executed by a computing device, provides notice that the posted content has been received in response to the request.

20. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when executed by a computing device, displays the posted content, when received, behind a session if the session is active.

21. (original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 20 wherein the stored program code, when executed by a computing device, provides notice that the posted content has been received in response to the request.

22. (original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when executed by a computing device, provides notice that the posted content has been received in response to the request, and wherein the notice is displayed even if a session is active.

23. (original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 22 wherein the notice is an icon.

24. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 22 wherein the stored program code, when executed by a computing device, and upon an action related to the notice, burns the posted content through a session so that the posted content is visible to a user.

25. (previously submitted) The computer readable storage medium of claim 22 wherein the stored program code, when executed by a computing device, and upon an action related to the notice, displays the posted content in front of a session so that the posted content is visible to a user.

26. (original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when executed by a computing device, automatically and recurrently initiates requests for the posted content.

27. (canceled)

28. (original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27 wherein the stored program code, when executed by a computing device, automatically and recurrently initiates requests for the posted content.

29. (original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when executed by a computing device, provides notice that no posted content has been received in response to the request.

30. (original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the stored program code is electronically received from a remote site and is stored by the computer readable storage medium.

31. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 wherein the remote site is the content provider.

32. (currently amended) A method comprising:
executing first program code at a content provider so as to post content for access by a content recipient;

executing second program code at the content recipient so as to automatically (i) access the content provider and (ii) initiate receipt by the content recipient of the posted content only if the posted content is new;

executing third program code at the content provider so as to send a message notifying the content recipient that the posted content is not new; and,

electronically receiving the second program code at the content recipient.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising canceling future automatic access and initiation functions of the second program code without communicating such an intent to the content provider.

34. (original) The method of claim 32 wherein executing the second program code at the content recipient comprises executing the second program code at the content recipient so as to automatically and recurrently (i) access the content provider and (ii) initiate the receipt by the content recipient of the posted content.

35. (canceled)

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising executing fourth program code at the content recipient so that the posted content, when received, is displayed behind a session if the session is active.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising executing fifth program code at the content recipient so as to provide notice to the content recipient that the posted content has been received at the content recipient in response to execution of the second program code, wherein the notice is displayed even if the session is active.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 further comprising executing sixth program code at the content recipient so that, upon an action related to the notice, the posted content burns through the session so that the posted content is visible to a user.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 further comprising executing sixth program code at the content recipient so that, upon an action related to the notice, the posted content is displayed in front of the session so that the posted content is visible to a user.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising executing fourth program code at the content provider so as to determine whether the

content recipient possesses the second program code and, if the content recipient does not possess the second program code, to download the second program code to the content recipient.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the electronically receiving of the second program code at the content recipient comprises electronically receiving the second program code at the content recipient from the content provider.

42. (canceled)

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising executing fifth program code at the content recipient so that, upon an action related to the notice, the posted content is displayed to a user.

44. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the content element comprises a note attached to the web page.

45. (previously presented) A method performed at a content recipient comprising:

executing first program code at the content recipient so as to identify a content provider having posted content of interest to the content recipient;

executing second program code at the content recipient so as to automatically initiate a request for the posted content and to automatically download the posted content if the posted content is new; and,

executing third program code at the content recipient so as to receive a notice that the content provider has no new content to download to the content recipient.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the method is performed without providing an e-mail address of the content recipient to the content provider.

47. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the initiating of requests and the receiving of the posted content are performed without providing an e-mail address of the content recipient to the content provider.

48. (previously presented) The method of
claim 32 performed without providing an e-mail address of
the content recipient to the content provider.